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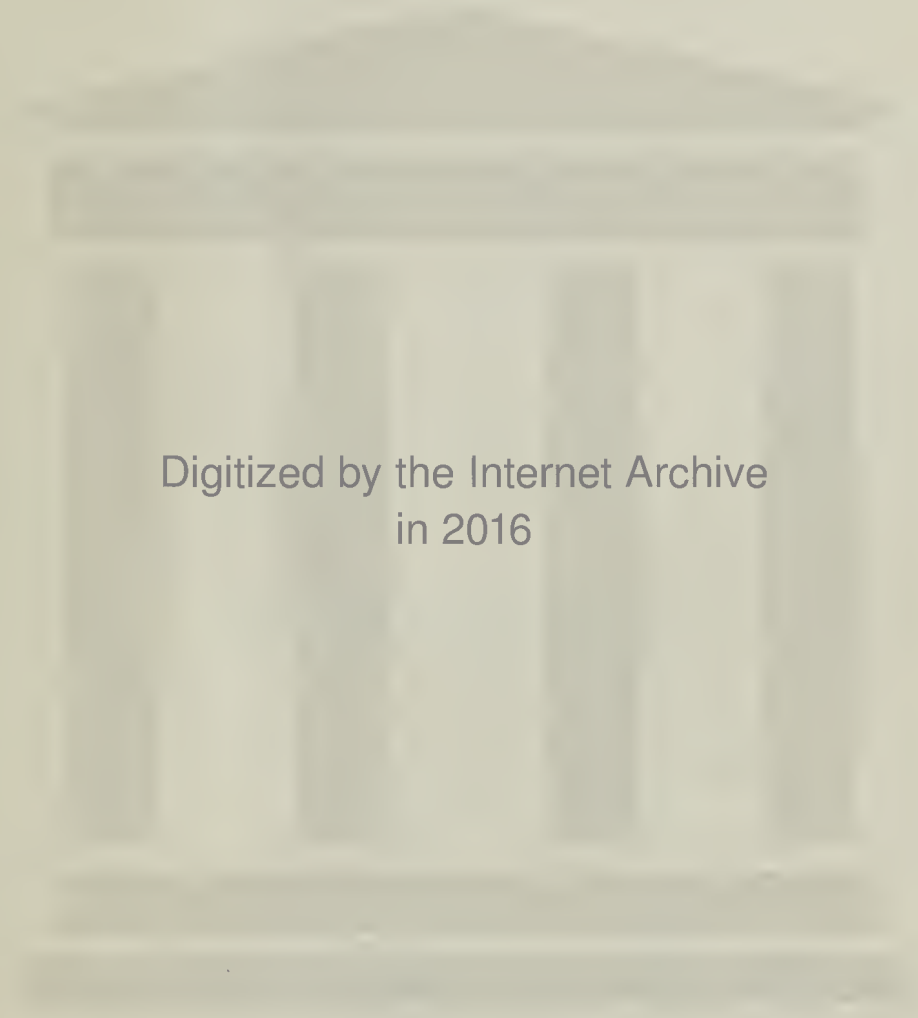

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CENTENNIAL

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

GREENE COUNTY, O.

DELIVERED AT

XENIA,

JULY 4, 1876,

By JUDGE WILLIAM MILLS.

XENIA, OHIO.
GAZETTE STEAM PRINT.
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THE ADDRESS.

My Fellow Citizens:—One hundred years ago, our noble ancestors severed the bonds of their political servitude with England, and declared themselves and their posterity forever free, and independent. From that day, a new era in the history of civilization, a fresh impetus in the growth and building up of the whole country, its towns, cities, counties and states is every where witnessed. 'Tis a fitting occasion then, and while the very atmosphere is redolent of patriotic fervor—to recall scenes and events which have become familiar and dear to every American heart. Let the welkin ring with the clarion shout, all hail the glorious 4th of July, 1876, the anniversary of our Nation's Birthday. To commemorate the event by demonstrations of joy, enlivened by the sweet strains of music, and by various intellectual entertainments and innocent amusements, as well as to rehearse and indelibly impress the facts and incidents of the fast receding past upon

the historic page; we are to-day assembled under auspices, well calculated to inspire our hearts with gratitude and our souls with reverential awe. The quiet repose and beauty of the smiling heavens above us, the rich and fertile landscape around us, the thousands of happy faces before us, beaming with love and intelligence, all commingle in this glorious festival, simultaneously with the forty millions of our fellow citizens, who in like manner are convened to revive a lively remembrance, as they recall the stirring and life-consuming trials and vicissitudes of the seven years of constant warfare and suffering of our revolutionary fathers. But the special duty assigned to me on this Centennial Anniversary of our American Independence, will confine my thoughts to a narrower range, the subject having already been selected for my reflections, and embracing topics and events connected with our own beloved county of Greene, illustrating the social, moral and mental characteristics of its early inhabitants, and showing the natural results flowing from sources so pure and elevating, as the sequel will prove in the rapid, great and grand developments, both material and educational. In accordance then, with not only the request of my fellow

citizens, but the expressed will of the national councils at Washington, that an historical sketch of each county be prepared by some designated party, for permanent use, as well as for the present gratification of our patriotic fervor, I proceed with the theme already announced, to wit: A historical sketch of Greene County, during the last century.

A more pleasing and interesting task could not have fallen to my lot, though one better adapted for the display of hope's bright fancy and indulgence in glowing prophecies of the greatness and grandeur of the unfolding destinies of our yet young, but marvelously promising republic might have been chosen. As we unroll the scroll of the past, we find that less than 100 years ago in all this region, the sunny valleys and pleasant hills, the fertile plains and luxuriant forests, all vocal with the music of their native songsters, were then one vast solitude unenlivened by the cheering rays of civilization, but still beautiful and lovely in the variegated garb and display of nature's own handiwork. Amid these secluded vales and rolling hill-sides sported the timid deer and roving wild turkey, while the stealthy tread of the cunning fox, knew no alarm, nor the

coy doves any fear for their lonely nests. The gurgling fountains bubbled up their crystal-like beverage and rolled their limpid waters away and onward to swell the mighty rivers of the great west. Then those gently flowing and perennial streams, Silver and Sugar, Cæsar and Beaver creeks, rippled on and ever, as from the morn of creation, but as yet there was not an inhabitant to give them a name. The falls of the Little Miami and Massies Creek, gems of romantic beauty for the artist's pencil and abounding in scenic delight to all beholders, had been wearing away from age to age, deep down in the underlying limestone, and dashing their waters from cliff to cliff, as if summoning by their murmuring roar, the listening ear and mechanic's hand, to utilize the wasting spray on the revolving wheels and machinery of a future industry. Another feature of rare attraction and unsurpassed loveliness alone peculiar to this section, was the far-famed Yellow Spring, a copious fount of limpid water and of medicinal virtues, gushing forth amid its grand old park of lofty forest trees, standing like sentinels in God's own temple, embowering in their tender care a mound of the aborigines, while bordering this panorama and masterpiece of nature's

own planning, an echoing cascade could be heard plaintively singing their requiem—as the sound died away in the silent retreats of a charming glen of isolated rocks and overhanging evergreens as beautiful as ever a painter sketched or poet sang. It was just the spot, in subsequent time, for the hopeful imaginative and credulous to found a colony of "communists," styling themselves "Owenites," where in 1825, some two hundred persons, of all ages and both sexes, congregated under one roof, dwelling together however for scarcely a twelve month, in more or less of promiscuity and great inharmony, and failing to realize their utopian schemes of sublunary bliss, they wisely agreed to disagree and separated, again to mingle and help swell the mighty ocean of our ever restless and struggling humanity in its higher aspirations for still sublimer heights. The soil, the water courses, in fine all nature, as Bishop Haber descibes India's Coral Strand, was pleasing. Civilized man alone was wanting, the noblest work of God, to give a new life and energy to this unequalled but tenantless Eden. From primeval ages the circling periods had been rolling their harvest and fruit-bearing seasons of warmth, sunshine and rain on all this region, but like the first

Paradise, there was no tiller of the soil to enjoy and inhale the freshness and fragrance of so delightful an arcadia. Then the untutored red man wandered in aimless life over and around these verdure-covered hills and dales, and game abounding woods, only aroused to action when pursuing the beasts of the forests—himself more savage than they—all unmindful of the grand and ennobling influences of the on-coming civilization—when once the skilled hand of labor and industry, science and religion, should extend their benign and creative power over this former dark and benightened land, literally causing the wilderness to bud and blossom as the rose. Such was the outward appearance and inner-life of all this surrounding country, when our fathers first beheld its pristine glory and beauty. The mystery of antiquity or tales of romance, need not be invoked to tax our credulity, nor traditionary reports relied upon as references, for there are those to day in our midst whose personal knowledge and memory will confirm the facts and history of this early period, as step by step our fathers made their progressive march, while taking possession of this goodly land. For many years prior to its first settlement in 1780—1790 and 1791—both sol-

diers and officers of Gen'l Clark's, Harmer's and St. Clair's campaign, as well as scouts and prisoners of war, from Kentucky, had passed through this section of Ohio, always a favorite resort and cherished home of the aborigines, the birth place of the renowned warrior, Tecumseh, and with the keen insight of pioneer adventurers, had beheld its beauties, richness and great agricultural resources. Upon their return, they reported in the fervor of their imagination that they had seen canaans of fertility and delight in all our river valleys, teeming with alluvial fatness, while the eye of taste was charmed with the varied and outlying scenery in all the intervening country. The reputation of this region (since erected into a county) for health and desirableness was now well established by these early observers and participators in our frontier Indian warfare, and it only remained for all the bold and daring spirits, thus schooled in the midst of dangers, and surrounded by a relentless foe, when seeking a new home, to find their way, one by one, or in groups to this fair and beautiful land. In 1790, all north and west of the Ohio, was one unbroken wilderness, except along the boundaries of the river, where a few fearless backwoodsmen had ventured to

rear the humble log cabin, and girdle here and there a small patch of overshadowing trees as a nucleus for cultivation. But to work their way into the interior some 70 miles, as far north as the limits of our county —from the Ohio—was still a work of Herculian labor, and attended with great personal danger, so that it required a prudence and fortitude to be both strengthened and encouraged by delay. But the restless and enterprising spirits born of the revolution, nurtured in the midst of hardships and privations, ever exposed to attacks from savage enemies, were not of a character long to be retarded in their resolution, to come and occupy the land. With them, to will and the way was the same. The very year, 1795, as soon as Gen'l Wayne, known as Mad Anthony, had concluded a treaty with the various Indian tribes, surrendering their entire jurisdiction to the soil of Ohio, the first pioneer emigrant found his way for a permanent home in that portion of Greene Co. now known as Sugar Creek township--and he is still remembered as Daniel Wilson, having built the first log cabin, on the 7th of April, 1796.

Thus only 80 years ago we may date the first authentic settlement of the county, and

the opening wedge to its transformation from the long ages of its wilderness and solitude to the habitation of civilized man. The North Western tribe of Indians having been forced to an unwilling peace, safety was now measurably felt and the entire territory having been ceded to the United States by treaty, the hardy and hopeful pioneer pursued his way north from the Ohio River, through the tangled underbush and opposing forest growth, with only his compass for a guide and his trusty axe to blaze the pathway to his new home. For it was here that the almost fabulous tales of the captives, as they rapidly surveyed the country, as hurried away by their sanguinary foe—had pictured out this region as a very Eldorado of their hopes—where neither hill nor dale, nor large nor sluggish streams encroached upon each other, but a happy proportion of each was equally distributed in this then remote and little known retreat. Emigrant after emigrant from both Kentucky and Virginia, followed in quick succession. Cabins rose up as by magic, and in less than two years after the curling smoke of the first stick and mud chimney proclaimed the presence and home of the white man, many others had dotted this hitherto wilderness with their rude tene-

ments. That portion now known as Beaver Creek Township—possessing all the elements of a wealth producing district, is conceded the priority in her public improvements, including court house, jail, mill, church and school-house, all of the rudest structure of logs, but boasting such enterprising citizens as Gen'l Benjamin Whiteman, Owen Davis, Grover Maxwell, Paul Puterbaugh, McClain, Wolf, Nesbit, Fulk, Tatman, Shoup, Robinson, Marshall, Somme and Allison—the widow of the latter, still living, who once occupied this primitive hut and seat of justice—while almost simultaneously, Thos. Townsley, James Galloway Mitchell, Miller, McHatton, Hawn, Andrews, Quinn, Hopping, McCullough, Stewarts and others settled on Massies Creek and the Little Miami. The following year, 1799, the brothers Isaiah and Wm. Sutton commenced a home in Cæsars' Creek township, and within the next three years we find the humble dwellings of logs rearing their unpretentious fronts all over the area now included in Greene county. So rapidly had population increased, and the demands of civil society grown in magnitude, and in various relations that the inhabitants organized themselves into a county the 1st of May, 1803, out of ter-

ritory previously recognized as belonging to Hamilton and Ross counties, within six months after Ohio had been admitted into the Union. Here we have the most forcible illustration of the active and intelligent character of the first settlers of our county, who thus established themselves in legal relationship with the great state itself, only 7 years from the time the woodsman's axe had echoed their presence, in this hitherto trackless forest. In the selection of that revolutionary name, Greene, they evinced their high appreciation of one of the noble compatriots of Washington, who had the title of Major General conferred upon him at a period of our nation's history when meritorious services and character alone secured that honor as a grateful tribute for deserved merit, and acknowledged ability. Though these noble pioneers had now taken all the preliminary steps for a prosperous and growing community, still the newness of the country and the intervening wilderness between them and the lakes—the Indians yet lingering in close proximity, and often forming encampments in sight of their very dwellings, necessarially impeded that rapidity of growth and social development so desirable and characteristic of that brave and patriotic

band, who had planted themselves on the very verge of danger as well as the outskirts of civilization. For though Mad Anthony, as he was familiarly called, had forced an unwilling peace upon all the Indian tribes of the northwest—yet mutterings of discontent and secret outrages were of constant occurrence, even up to the war of 1812 and for some years afterwards, so that the tide of emigration into this section was consequently slow, during these earlier years. But what was lacking in numbers, they made up in moral stamina—for only men who were self-reliant and hosts in themselves, would dare encounter the hardships and personal dangers of an exposed and frontier life. Hence in the onward progress and success of many, if not all, of the great educational, moral and religious enterprises, as well as local and public improvements credited to our county, the philosopher and future historian will here discover in embryo, all the formative elements of lofty designs, and noble achievements, manifesting themselves in the lives and character of these early, bold and persistent pioneers. As in the history of our race, the law came first and the Gospel afterward—so in reciting the order of events, we shall follow so high a precedent,

and state that the first court for organizing Greene county, was held on the 10th of May, 1803, at the house of Peter Border, some five and a half miles west of Xenia, near the Dayton road. The names honored as the associate judges of this first court, Wm. Maxwell, Benjamin Whiteman and James Barret, are so familiar to all the older members of this assembly, that it seems but yesterday when they were living in our midst. Their numerous posterity have intermarried, and their near descendants are all around us, worthily sustaining their relationship to so noble a parentage. The first presiding judge was Francis Dunlavy, whose keen sense of justice and detestation of all wrong doing was proverbial, and as an illustration of his action in these particulars, it has been repeated scores of times in my hearing, as not altogether apocryphal,though not of binding belief, that at one of the early sessions, a culprit was brought before him arrested on suspicion of being a horse thief, but the evidence failed to convict him of the crime charged, yet in the examination of the case his general character was shown up to be so bad and dangerous to the community, and the proof clearly fastening the still higher crime of arson upon him, that the judge pro-

nounced him guilty and ordered him punished, for the latter offence, as coming within the pale of a rigorous justice. This be it remembered, was before the days when the technicalities of law were relied upon by its violators, as a sure guarantee of acquittal, though the facts are all proven and the misdeeds self-confessed. Human nature, then as at the present day, required that a Prosecuting Attorney should be one of the leading officers of the court house and Daniel Simons was elected for that duty, to control its many vagaries and more violent manifestations. For it is among the legends of that early time that the dignity of office did not always secure that respect and reverence so necessary for its proper appreciation, as it is related that the prisoners at the bar would sometimes challenge the judges upon the bench to a hand-to-hand combat. As the names of the first grandjurors are household words in our midst, and whose descendents are among our most honorable and worthy citizens, it is a pleasant duty to name them, beginning with Wm. J. Stewart, foreman, John Wilson, Wm. Buckles, Abraham Van Eaton, James Snodgrass, John Judy, Evan Morgan, Robert Marshall, Alexander C. Armstrong, Joseph C. Vance, Joseph Wll

son, John Buckhannon, Martin Mendenhall and Harry Martin.

Among the earliest transactions of the court was the division of the county into townships, and to make such appointments as their necessities required and their judgment dictated. The first was that of Joseph C. Vance for establishing a seat of justice, and the present citizens of Xenia township, as well as of the whole county, will find no fault with his selection for that duty, nor his conclusion as to the best location.

Next in order we find the remarkable fact that both father and son were appointed to fill the two most important offices at that day, if not the present, in the county's gift, to-wit: that of Treasurer James Galloway, Sr., and County Surveyor James Galloway, jr. Their subsequent history and meritorious lives are so interwoven with the warp and woof of our country's growth and development, that no great leading enterprise of a social, moral or religious character can be named without associating their patronymic, while all works of internal improvement, calculated to build up and add to the reputation of Greene Co. was with them a life-labor and pleasant duty. And as a significant fact it may be stated that one of the same family, of the third genera-

tion, Washington Galloway, still holds the office of County Surveyor, to the general satisfaction of the public.

The next appointee, to record all these first judicial proceedings, is the venerable name of John Paul, suggestive in its combination of two such historical personages, of a union of qualities and characteristics, to insure both fidelity and courage in its proper discharge.

Another indispensible officer, always a terror to evil-doers and unfortunate debtors, was that of Sheriff. It was conferred upon one Nathan Lamme, whose presence to any one consciously guilty, would impress him as was David of old, "Thou art the Man!"

If time permitted, it would be both pleasant and profitable to recall the names and peculiarities of each of the many public officials down to the present day, as possessing, individually and in the aggregate, noble traits of character and integrity of life, worthy of our admiration and adoption. This conclusion is legitimate, from the knowledge of those who knew them personally, as well as inferential, from the fact that of all the county officers, from its organization in 1803 to the present date, that, on the average, each one of the eleven have held their respective

places for the period of over eight years, a longer term than Jacob stipulated to serve for his beloved Rachel.

Passing now from the corner-stone superstructure of the judicial temple, it remains to introduce the bar. A shorter and more comprehensive word, and variable in its meaning, could not have been extracted from either the ancient or modern languages than that which by common consent is used to signify the devotees of Blackstone and Coke in their professional career as advocates of law and justice. The travesty of the word by the followers of Bacchus is only another illustration that the livery of heaven is often seized upon to give character and dignity to otherwise doubtful if not criminal employments. But it is in the higher and nobler sense that I take pleasure in recalling to your memory some of the distinguished members of the Greene County Bar who have now passed forever from the horizon of human observation. I will only name one of your early prosecuting attorneys—John Alexander,—and many a poor criminal who has not yet shuffled off his mortal coil will see rising up before him the stalwart image of this modern Boanages whose portly presence and stentorian voice would cause every fiber of a

guilty man to quake as one already condemned. For full 20 years the terror of his name, as he loomed up, an avenger of violated laws upon all the disturbers of the peace and good neighborhood, made him a conspicuous figure in Greene county's temple of justice. Many others are worthy of an extended notice, but the fresh memory of most of my audience will fill up their scroll of fame as I mention Wm. Ellsberry, Joshua Collet, John M. Miller, J. W. Lowe, J. G. Gest, Aaron Harlan and Hugh Carey—these among the dead, while those composing the living Bar are making their record, under the light of all past experience and in the estimate of an impartial judgment, are worthy, even now, of a place upon the historic record that shall hand their names down to posterity. No less than four of the present members have been clothed with the ermine of authority, balancing the scales of an even-handed justice between their fellow-men, while several others might fitly wear, and doubtless will, as time rolls on, the same judicial robes. Both state and congressional honors have already been bestowed upon different individuals of our legal fraternity, so recent and conspicuous as to need no mention. In contrasting the past with the pres-

ent, what mighty strides in civil polity, social life and all the elements of a civilized and refined community since the session of the first court in the log-cabin on Beaver Creek, seventy-three years ago.

We now turn to that portion of our historical sketch around which cluster the most sacred relationships and dearest interests of our common humanity. You already anticipate me as I announce the moral and religious element, as accompanying and manifesting itself in the very organization of the county and destined to wield an influence, both purifiing and elevating, in all its future progress and highest developments. It is a noticeable fact that the first ministrations of the Gospel were initiated by the Rev. Rob't Armstrong, a most thoroughly educated and scholarly teacher and divine, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, who came here while as yet the wigwams and camp-fires of the Indians constituted one of the features of the native forests, and the single-roomed cabins of the early settlers offered him their only accommodation and hospitality. But inspired by the love of his Divine Master, he braved the privations and dangers of this then unsubdued frontier, casting his lot for weal or woe with his noble compeers, assist-

ing them in building up their infant colony, both by word and deed. He was the first minister licensed to solemnize the right of matrimony, an institution as sacred and popular with our forefathers as now; and well might he have been proud could he have foreseen the results of his performing that ceremony upon so distinguished and widely known couple, in after years, as the late Major James Galloway and Martha Townsley. It is hardly possible to overestimate the valuable services of this Scottish divine who left his native country as a missionary of the Seceder denomination for the State of Kentucky; but his benevolent and christian spirit revolting at the institution of slavery, he naturally followed the tide of emigration to Ohio. A man of rare culture and deep piety, he exerted a formative influence upon the original settlers of the county, to the careful observer everywhere apparant among their descendants, even to the present day.

The oft occurring dangers and the necessity of mutual assistance in opening up this hitherto trackless forest united them all in a common brotherhood, which ignored all the artificial distinctions of wealth, birth and family, and both priest and people co-operated in clearing and subduing the wilderness;

and at log-rollings, wood-choppings, and house-raisings the greatest hilarity and freedom was reciprocated and enjoyed by each, whether it was his own or his neighbor's homestead that was being enlarged and improved. The generous-hearted and open-handed benevolence of this worthy divine became proverbial as he mingled in free and unrestrained intercourse with these bold pioneers, and on every fitting opportunity, either in the open air or humble cottage, he was ready to instruct and inculcate the pure doctrines of his holy calling, as his cherished and dearest life-work. Numbered among his hearers, friends and followers were names that have become historical and honored, and whose descendants have maintained the reputation of their ancestors, both at home and abroad, and many of them are today among our most highly esteemed citizens. A few can only be mentioned; but in that early list will be found the Quinns and Forbes, McCoys and sons, James and John Stevenson, Thos. and John Townsley, George and James Galloway, the Kyles, Morrow, Moody, McFarland, Miller, Laugheads, Collins, Bulls, Gordon; and in Sugarcreek township, John and Joseph McKnight, Joseph C. Vance, the VanEatons, Bains, Biggers,

Holmes, and many others equally worthy of a lasting and cherished remembrance. But the Rev. Mr. Armstrong was not long the sole reaper in this remote vineyard of the Lord, for we find another able and devoted divine in the person of the Rev. Andrew Fulton of the Associate church, who arrived in this new field of labor in the following year, on the 1st of September 1804. His activity, zeal and piety are still themes of loving memory and instructive comment. Through his exertions and the co-operative influences and liberality of John and James Stevenson the first Associate church in Greene county was erected upon the land of the latter. The simplicity of its structure and absence of all adornment, its rustic seats and floor of mother earth with no provision for heating, while the wintry blasts of snow and wind were warded off by filling up the open space between the logs with mud and clay, will afford a striking contrast between the church accommodations and architecture of that day to the present, and much food for profitable reflection as to whether the piety of the later worshippers has correspondingly increased with their external evidence of wealth, taste and refinement. Almost simultaneously with the advent of the Rev. Mr.

Fulton appeared the Rev. James Towler, a Methodist, from Petersburgh, Virginia, whose character, standing and ability may readily be inferred, from the fact, that the first good log house erected in Xenia by its citizens was for their esteemed pastor, the pioneer herald of John Wesley's mode of presenting the truths of the gospel. From these three exemplary teachers and spiritual guides, like the mountain sources of some gigantic river, which in its onward flow bears upon its bosom the commerce of the world, one can trace out in the intellectual, moral and religious growth of society the grandest results in ever maturing harvests of immortal fruitage. Thus the foundations of the various religious organizations in our county were laid broad and deep by these original divines, and it would be both interesting and profitable to recite, in detail, the rise and progress of each denomination, and their location in the county, but the allotted hour forbids. In passing down the stream of time for the next twenty-five years we find a constant development of this element as strengthened by the Baptists, Presbyterians and other christian sects, when a strong tide of immigration set in from the Carolinas, preceded by that most earnest, learned

and distinguished of all the bright galaxy of Greene county's later divines, the Rev. Hugh McMillan, of the Covenanter church. From his advent a new impulse was given to the cause of education, social and moral reform, and every good and noble work. He came among us in 1828, and was so well pleased with the country that his reports back to his former home, portraying the advantages and desirableness of this section to all seeking a beautiful and fertile land, where both civil and religious liberty might be fully enjoyed, that within the next five years some two hundred emigrants composed of the best citizens of the two Carolinas followed him to this county, and to-day many of them commercially, socially and intellectually hold the highest positions in our community.

Hitherto the great majority of settlers in our midst were from Kentucky, Maryland and Virginia, but now reinforcements from many of the Southern States added largely to our population, and chiefly of a character that would enrich any section by their energy, thrift and high moral tone. It was about this period in the history of our country when the slavery question began to agitate society to its profoundest depths and to rouse up to a vigorous action the quickened

conscience of all the true and good throughout this entire nation. Hence men of principle, character and thought, protesting against an institution so blighting and unjust in every respect, and unwilling to bring up their children under its demoralizing influences, early sought a removal to this free state, already widely known for its sturdy and enterprising population and advanced sentiments on the subject of human rights. As surely as operates the law of gravitation so moral and mental proclivities have their affiliations and attractions as unerringly in the associations of individuals, families and communities. Hence the reason is obvious and it is no exaggeration to claim for the early settlers and founders of our social, civil and religious institutions that no territory of equal numbers, in any county or state in the Union, can boast of a citizenship composed of better material, where character, conscience and principle were the foundation stones and bases of all after superstructures. Not only from our own continent were we thus replenished with the choicest of immigrants, but from Europe, the better classes, discontented and restive under their oppressions, seeking a freer land and broader civil and religious liberty, turned

their eyes westward for the realization of their hopes. The ordinance of 1787 having dedicated the whole North-western territory to freedom forever, and Ohio being the nearest and first State organized under its provisions, and this section of it having already been heralded as one of the most attractive and fertile, it was universally looked to as the very Eldorado of North America for all seeking a new home, and to these circumstances we are indebted for so many worthy representatives of this element from the clans of Scotland and the quick-witted and light-hearted sons of the Emerald Isle. The intermingling of individuals and families from different States and nationalities, each possessing some traits of character and ideas peculiar to themselves and educated under systems of government diverse from each other, naturally quickened their intellectual perceptions, and led to discussions, divisions and new organizations of church relationship, all evincing a zeal, life and aspirations for the highest moral attainments. For according to the laws of human development, all progress and growth are the result of agitation, and discontent with the present established order of both civil and religious institutions. The fomentation consequent upon

this principle, so conspicuous in our county, produced a corresponding activity in all the benevolent operations of the day, especially in the Bible and missionary cause, colonization societies, various temperance organizations, and many other charitable enterprises, all looking to the moral welfare and elevation of the community, the beneficial effects of which have been extended throughout all this region, and are both seen and felt down to the present hour. And on this occasion it shall be our agreeable duty to revive and perpetuate pleasant memories of some of these former spiritual guides, albeit they are even now fresh and enshrined in the hearts of many throughout the county—such men as Armstrong, Fulton, Steele, Adams, Smart, Herron, Beveridge, Hugh and Gavin McMillan, Pringle, Munfort, Poague, Russell, Reeder, Sales, Trader, Christie, Raper, Durbin, Findley, Simmons, Bontecue, besides many more whose faithful labors are recorded on tablets above, undimmed by the mists of time and not subject to the process of decay. And of the many who have gone out from us, perhaps no richer legacy of good deeds and wise counsel have been bequeathed to us than by Drs. Harper and Findley, whose labors and wide usefulness have been sought

and transferred to still larger communities, evidencing an appreciation of their eminent abilities, piety and worth. Those still ministering at the same altars in our midst are Drs. S. Wilson, of spotless record, who, in 1833, with Revs. A. Pogue and T. Steele, D. Monroe and J. Harbison, formed the first anti-slavery society in Greene county, when to do it tested the manhood, courage and faith of the strongest mind and boldest heart. And in the list of Doctors of Divinity are Morehead, Carson and Crum, while the Revs. Hanna, McMichael, Prugh, Bedell, Hopkins, Shaffer, Yockey, Hypes, Sphar, Gaddis, Richards and others are still enrolled as faithful laborers in the great harvest-field of humanity's fruitage, and their work is not yet finished. We therefore leave their record for the future historian, only indicating in a summary way, the obligations of the county at large for benefits and blessings flowing from these sources as fountains of pure and never-failing supply, preserving and perpetuating, in healthy organizations, all the various interests of society, social, moral and religious. Naturally growing out of the teachings of the clergy, Greene county may well challenge comparison with any area of equal extent and numbers, to produce efforts and

results, in the educational line, that can rival her own, in variety, magnitude and wide extended reputation. With a just pride she can point to her Union School edifices, naturally in her suburban villages, as remarkable for their size and architectural finish, so ornate and complete in all their appointments, and pleasing to the eye of taste, as to be typical of their grand design, securing to every child in their several precincts, a free and liberal education; but in Xenia alone no less than five noble structures are devoted to the same beneficent ends, where both the elementary and higher branches are imparted with a like generosity. And notwithstanding such ample provisions have been made for the masses, yet institutions, ranking in their thoroughness and breadth of culture with the oldest and most renowned in the land, are to be found in her limits, and worthy of special notice. First in order of time and chartered privileges, appears Antioch College, opened in October, 1853, with that most enlightened educator, statesman and philanthropist, the late Hon. Horace Mann, for its President. With so distinguished a head, and the announcement that both sexes were to be admitted to equal advantages in all the departments of the institution, and the un-

sectarian character of the institution, all contributed to direct the attention of the bright and aspiring youths seeking an education, to early crowd its halls. From the Far East to the remote West, young men and women, of earnest intention and loftiest aims, became its inmates; and to-day its graduates are filling posts of honor and usefulness, in the various fields of human industry, where literary ability and moral worth are sought as agencies, to build up and adorn society,as well as active participants in the great political arena of both our state and national councils. The broad and liberal features of the institution, the world-wide renown of its first President, and the noble work it has already accomplished, have made it well and favorably known, not only in our own land, but on the continent of Europe. in all the famous seats of learning and schools of art, from the Louvre to the Vatican, from Leipsic to Berlin. In after years, if not now, it will be claimed as a trophy of richest inheritance, that within the limits of Greene county, was located Antioch College, that such and such statesman and scholars went forth from her halls, and that the great commoner of universal education, and one of the greatest advocates of human rights and all practical

meral reforms, the late Hon. Horace Mann, lived, and died here in the midst of his world-wide usefulness. The second luminary in the educational firmament of Greene county, is Wilberforce University, dedicated in October, 1856, by the Rev. Edward Thompson, late Bishop of the M. E. church, under the auspices of that denomination. It was founded by a pure and lofty patriotism, inspired by holy, christian impulses, for the benefit of the sons and daughters of African blood. Here unrestricted, the highest collegiate honors can be conferred upon a race, long trodden down and held in bondage by the usurpations and tyranny of the more powerful Anglo-Saxon. Its establishment was a testimonial of a sense of justice that was felt and acknowledged, as due them, for the many disabilities and wrongs inflicted upon them in our country, from its earliest history. The noble effort to furnish such ample provisions for the colored race, was alike creditable to the head and heart of all its early friends and benefactors. Its first teachers, Rev. M. P. Gaddis, Parker and R. T. Rust, D. D., will ever be associated with this purely benevolent effort, to secure university privileges and honors for this class of our American citizenship. But financial dif-

ficulties occurring, it passed into the hands of the African M. E. Church in 1863, and with Bishop Payne for its President. A grand success has crowned their endeavors, and the christian and philanthropist may well rejoice, that the benign spirit of the gospel has been developed in so noble and triumphant a work. Again, a third collegiate enterprise belongs to our county, first established under the style of the M. E. Female College, with Rev. Mr. Lowry as President, as one of the pioneer institutions in the West for that class, where all the advantages of a broad culture and the highest scholastic attainments could be enjoyed by those desirous and appreciative of its lofty aims. But more recently, in harmony with the growing and enlightened spirit of the age, its halls have been thrown open to both sexes without distinction, in her graduating diplomas. Hereafter it will be known as Xenia College, and one of the representatives of advanced ideas, in its co-equal advantages to both sons and daughters. Its President, Mr. William Smith, has been its official head for the last eighteen years, its origin dating back to a Female High School, taught by Dr. Towler; but the growing demands of the city for still higher advantages of education, resulted in its pres-

ent chartered privileges and flourishing condition; and it now has a high reputation among all educators and lovers of their country. In addition to these three purely literary institutions, there is still another noticeable seat of learning here, (one of the oldest, if not the first established in the United States.) This institution was founded in the year 1794 and located first at Service Creek, Beaver county, Pa. In 1821 it was removed to Cannonsburg, Pa., and in 1855 to Xenia, O. In the year 1874 the U. P. Seminary of the North-West, located at Monmouth, Ills., (formerly the Associate Reformed Seminary of Oxford, O.,) was united with it. It is known as the Theological Hall of the United Presbyterian Church, furnished with as able a corps of professors as can be found in any seminary of religious instruction, either East or West. Its celebrity is not confined to our own county or state, but it has a reputation and character for thoroughness and scholarship and biblical lore, as wide-spread and honored as the members and teachers of that branch of the christian church are well and favorably known. Men of marked ability, and so distinguished beyond the limits of our own state, as its teachers, Doctors Moorehead and Carson, Bruce

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and McMichael; and students of high promise still give evidence of its popularity and success. In the æsthetic line, a Conservatory of Music, under the management of Messrs. Johnson and Brown, founded in 1870, as a local and independent institution, already patronized by students from seventeen states and the Canadas, is the most striking illustration of the refined taste of the people, and their appreciation of the most elevating and sublime of the divine arts. Among the public institutions of the county, representing the delicate consideration and benevolence of its citizens for the unfortunate and poor, is an Infirmary, under the superintendence of Harvey Gram, of dimensions equal to any emergency, and in external appearance palatial in its imposing grandeur. Besides this home provision for the dwellers within her own borders, Greene county has had the honor and glory of having established on her own soil, by state authority and beneficence, a Home for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans, presided over respectively by Dr. Griswold, Jenner and Kerr, in the past, and now by Captain Wm. L. Shaw. With its six hundred inmates, it must ever reflect credit and a lasting renown upon its originators and advocates, as one of the grandest and most hu-

mane of public charities, in all the range of sympathetic and christian efforts to benefit and bless the fatherless, so rendered by the devotion and self-sacrifice of their paternal guardians, who yielded up their lives on the fields of battle, in hospitals, and military prisons, all in the service of their country. May the citizens of Greene county ever prove worthy of the location in their midst of an institution so beneficial and patriotic, an outgrowth and a living witness of the state's gratitude to her brave and fallen soldiers during the last war. How suggestive is this of a just recognition of the honorable record, engraved upon the military escutcheon of old Greene by her volunteer soldiery when our nation's flag was being trailed in the dust and the very life of the republic assailed. It is still fresh in your memory that then, the youth still in his minority, the middle-aged, and the gray-haired, flocked to the standard where floated the stars and stripes, and onward pressed their way to the gory field, regardless of personal danger, all intent on their country's safety and honor. Of the thousands who enlisted and became connected with the Greene county and other regiments as privates and officers, only a few can be named as suggestive of hundreds of others,

both living and dead, worthy of all honor and the lasting remembrance and gratitude of the entire community. As familiar on the martial roll, the call may begin with General Moody, Von Schrader, Lowe, Stevensons, Findley, Owens, Ballard, McDowell, McMillan, Hutchison, Hering, McClung, Shaw, Drs. Brelsford and Steele, Chaplain Marshall, and a host of equally good and true comrades, all too numerous to be mentioned. As we drop a tear over the memory of the dead, still fresh and dear to the hearts of all the survivors, we will only add, high on the scroll of fame let the glorious war-record of old Greene in that late bloody conflict be inscribed in living letters of flaming fire, perpetuating her honor and patriotism to the latest generation.

To turn, now, to another branch of our historical sketch, a brief allusion must be made to some of the earlier distinguished names well and favorably known in trade and commerce, who were active agents in building up and making possible all the after great and noble developments of Greene county. For the merchants, by their enterprise and liberality, not only supplied the necessary wants of a new community but also served as bankers to the extent of their

then limited means, and in every way by their intelligence and public spirit were valuable members of society. Their honorable reputation is still maintained by their descendents and those at present engaged in mercantile pursuits in our midst, so that in the list will appear both classes: The Gowdys, Hivlings, Nunnemaker & Allen, Dodds, Puterbaugh & Allison, Canby & Walton, Merrick & McClure, Millens, McMillan, Bell & Ash, Thorpe, Allison & Townsley, Stark & Lytle, Cooper & Hutchison, as business men and firms familiar to every household in the county. There is still another class of worthy and enterprising citizens to whom the great prosperity and early rapid growth of the county is indebted, in the builders and operators of our flouring and lumber mills. These first and necessary industries were of primal importance and the foundation of all succeeding manufacturing establishments. The names of these men are ingrained in the memories of almost every family living in a radius of forty miles of their location. The record will embrace Owen Davis, Smith, Scott, Patterson, Kemp, Bates & Lewis, Ploughman, Knott & Johnston, Stewart & Jacoby, Engles; the Bakers—Thomas, Joshua and Noyl; Fallis, Moody, Palmer, Grin-

nel, Jacobys, Sexton, Baughman & Snyder, Forsman & Ankeny, Haynes & Harner, Harbeins, Knisely, and many others, all identified with the most important interests of the county, and in their supplies of food to the hungry and lumber for tenements to the poor, became the real benefactors of their race. The example and spirit of these men stimulated others to an activity and zeal in starting up a large variety of domestic industries where waterpower alone was used to propel machinery; so that by any fair comparison with any other community, even at the present day, she may well challenge competition, when the newness of the country, scarcity of money, absence of the raw material, want of finished machinery, and all other disabilities are considered as factors in the general estimate. For under all these disadvantages, it is historically proven that the flouring mill on Beavercreek, built by Owen Davis, and afterwards known as Smith's, was the first and only one erected within seventy miles, when roads and bridges were unknown in this frontier district, and the winter season was used to make available the snows to smooth the surface and the frosts to congeal the streams, so that transportation could be had to and from the Ohio river. Yet at this

early period, between sixty and seventy years ago, carding and fulling machines, cotton, oil and woolen mills, scythe and gun factories were in operation and at Oldtown, the ancient Chillicothe of the Shawnees, Wyandotts, and other aboriginal tribes of Indians from time immemorial, and where Simon Kenton ran the gauntlet, and other white prisoners were tortured and many families massacred, even Connecticut was represented in a genuine clock factory by Messrs. Reed & Watson, while other branches of mechanical industry were carried on by Messrs. Ballard & North, West & Cushman. But prior to this, even, Mr. Embry, a Friend Quaker from Tennessee, had established a nail and sickle factory and erected the first flouring mill at that place, antedating in some of his enterprises anything of the kind in the North-Western territory. And at this point, likewise, was a trading-post for the Indians, dating far back in the obscurity of the past, being on the great traveled route and war-path from the Blue Licks, and Maysville, in Ky., through old Chillicothe, on to Piqua, Detroit, and the prairies of the far-off West. No lovelier section and richer soil, with such charming surroundings of rolling uplands and flowing streams, can be found in this or any other

county in the state. To the antiquarian, a rich field of investigation is now opened up, in the ancient fortifications and numerous mounds of a forgotten race which abound in all this region, crowning the summits of the Miami hills, and giving a two-fold interest to the rocky glens and rising grounds near Cedarville, while stone hatchets and battle axes, copper wedges and other articles of metalic construction, all indicate an early and long-ago occupation of this romantic and delightful locality, by an appreciative population, more or less civilized, of the "Genus Homo," whether white, brown or red. And at Clifton, too, full forty years ago, the Messrs. Bates and Lewis, John and Wm. Anderson, and others, built a large cotton factory, when there were neither turnpikes, railroads, or canal within twenty-five miles, exhibiting a degree of bold enterprise and trusting confidence in the future, under the circumstances, and at the date thereof, unsurpassed in this or any other section of the west. At a later day many other and more extensive improvements distributed throughout the county, including machine shops and powder mills, manufactories of almost every description of agricultural implements, as well as a great variety of articles of both domestic and

foreign traffic—paper mills, products of flax, and hemp, rope walks, bagging and linen, all witness that there is still abroad, in this region, a lively interest and readiness to embark in any new enterprise that a wise prudence would recommend as a remunerative investment. Yet it is, as an agricultural district, remote from navigable streams and large water courses, and not so centrally located as to become the mart of a wide-extended region, with neither coal or iron as a basis of wealth, that Greene county is to be particularly noted for having developed, to the fullest extent, all the natural resources that Providence has placed within her reach. And still it can be truthfully said, that though destitute of carboniferous and ferriferous deposits, yet in her McDaniel quarries and lime producing strata, at Cedarville, Clifton, and Yellow Springs, she has found a constant market, for years past, at Cincinnati, Columbus, and other points, and has a capacity for increasing the supply, incomputable in value and inexhaustible in quantity, as it extends to depths unexplored and over an area of miles upon miles within available reach. Messrs. Srouffe, Irvine, Shroades & Son, Iliff & Orr, are the the principal manufacturers. With a territorial area of 18 by 24 miles, di-

vided into twelve townships, scarcely an acre of unproductive soil lies within her borders, except where nature has bestowed upon her a scenic beauty of rare loveliness, consisting of deep and narrow glens, isolated rocks, lofty and impending cliffs, adorned with towering evergreens and trailing vines, all beneath the general level, as if to economize inavailable space and afford channels for water power to propel the buzzing wheels of her multiplied industries. Thus possessed with all the various elements of a rich soil, timber, stone, lime, gravel, copious springs, and larger mill streams, with all her antecedent triumphs and noble achievements—material, moral, and intellectual. Greene county may well unite in this national birthday anniversary, decked in her most gaudy apparel, representing in bold relief all the various devices of mechanical labor and her highest artistic skill to augment the grand pageantry of this ever memorable celebration. With a citizenship of some 30,000 to 35,000, chiefly engaged in tilling the soil. it would be invidious to select a few as successful and widely known, when so many are distinguished as stock and grain producers by all the leading agriculturists of the state. Yet as indicating the high rank and energetic character of the rural pop-

ulation, their zeal, liberality and intelligence, it can be set down to the credit of Greene county, that she alone sustains within her narrow limits two flourishing agricultural societies, a fact without a parallel in any other county in the state, of no larger dimensions. The parent society was established in 1833, and the Union, at Jamestown, in 1859. The records of the first not having been carefully preserved its earlier history is more or less obscured; but Mr. John Lucas is its present efficient president, and J. B. Carruthers, secretary; while 'Squire Cummins presides over the latter, which for the first eleven years of its existence elected Mr. R. Brown, continuously, as its executive head. The competitive rivalry existing between the two has doubtless led to a more general interest throughout the county, in the excellencies and perpetuation of both, and resulted in an increased activity and zeal, when otherwise an indifference and stagnation might have followed, for friction and contrast quicken the perception and life in all works and enterprises of a growing importance and worth. And as a further illustration of the active and progressive spirit of this class, it may be stated that a granger organization was formed in 1873, by Daniel M. Stewart, now both

strong in numbers and influential in character, designed for educational and social improvement, by arousing and bringing together divers minds to consult and advise as to the qualities of various soils, and the crops best adapted to each, as well as all other matters and interests pertaining to good husbandry, including a better acquaintance and more advantageous relationships between both producers and consumers. Whatever may be the ultimate results and benefits flowing from this co-operative effort to advance their life work, morally and materially, we doubt not great good will grow out of it. And the fact that it exists in our midst in such vigorous life demonstrates an activity of thought, an energy and thrift of which every citizen may well be proud.

Of her central city, Xenia, laid out in 1803 by John Paul, and surveyed by J. C. Vance, the father of the late Gov. Vance, with her 7,000 inhabitants, 14 churches, 2 banks, schools and colleges, court-house, city hall, fire-engine houses, besides all other institutions and needs requisite for her healthy maintainance and growth, with nine turnpikes radiating in all directions, and three railroads, with their combinations and unions embracing triple that number, extending to

all points of the compass, with still another independent line soon to be finished, penetrating the very heart of the coal region of Ohio, and yet on the lookout for other arteries of commerce, she may well point with pride and honest exultation to these as her jewels, as did the old Roman matron, the mother of the Gracchi, to her sons, and feel assured that her works will praise her; for it has passed into a proverb "by their fruits ye shall know them." Her deeds already accomplished and noble records that have become historical, reveal the high character and indicate the intelligence of both her former and present citizenship. Likewise do her suburban villages declare, by their thrift and beauty, by their houses of worship and seminaries of learning, their near relation to the county town, in the organic elements of an energetic and self-improving character: Osborn and Fairfield, Bellbrook and Spring Valley, Jamestown and Cedarville, Clifton and Yellow Springs, each revolving in their own particular orbit, but differing from one another as stars vary in size and brilliancy, yet all uniting to form one constellation in the bright galaxy of her tributary and surrounding towns. It may be remarked, that while so many public thoroughfares and no-

ticeable improvements are found in Xenia alone, yet in the county at large no less than six distinct lines of railroads and several dozens of turnpikes, add largely to her general schedule of advantages and pleasant highways, and with them has come a large immigration of valuable laborers, who in their train have been followed by a self-devoted ministry of the Roman Catholic church, whose field of work extends all along these various routes, and afford religious instruction to those who otherwise would conscientiously refuse moral teaching from any but their own sacerdotal order. Large congregations and creditable houses of worship are located in Xenia, Yellow Springs, Jamestown and Osborn, and Fathers Howard, Blake and Burns are names familiar to thousands as their accepted and venerated spiritual guides. While honorable mention has been made of various classes and professions, justice demands that a high tribute be paid the memory and character of that religious sect, always an industrious, intelligent and moral element in every community, known as Friends, and represented in our early annals by such members as the Waltons, Embreys, Thorns, Ellises, Wrights, Sprays, Comptons, Wilsons, Mendenhalls, Stanfields,

and at a later day reinforced by many more substantial and wealthy families from Virginia and other Southern states.

But doubtless one of the most potent agencies in producing these wonder-working results of our past history, by its activity of mind and vigor of thought, in disseminating knowledge, and by advocating the good and the true, and condemning the superficial and false, will involuntarily suggest its own name—the printing press. With its electrical communication with the whole universe of mind and matter, and with its Briarian arms outstretched and reaching every household—it has more than brought down fire from heaven and outstripped the lightning's flash—it has quickened and enlightened the immortal intellect, and subserved every valuable material, local and public interest, as well as social, moral and religious, and made familiar to every intelligent reader. Pelham, the editor and publisher of the first paper in Greene county, in 1810, then Kendall, Gallagher, Gardner, Hollingsworth, Coke Wright, Purdy, Ramsey, Lapham, Fairchild & Nichols, Curry and McBratney, Leggett, Whitelaw Reid, Bascom, Hawes, Kinney & Milburn; and to-day, Stine & Marshall, Luce, Patton & Findley, are toiling in the same

fields of honorable labor, implanting and perpetuating their best thoughts and highest wisdom for the good of all.

There yet remains to be mentioned, the members of that most influential and useful class of professions—the physician, whose familiar acquaintance and associations with society in its most intimate relations at large, make them a power in community second to none other of equal numbers. It can be claimed for Greene county, that almost from her earliest formation, that one came into her midst from Virginia, Dr. Joshua Martin, in 1813, who for over forty years was the acknowledged Æsculapius of his time, reflecting, by his vigor of thought, delicacy of feeling, skill in practice, and manly bearing, honor and renown upon all his worthy compeers, who in character and fidelity to their calling, are to be reckoned among our most valuable and eminent citizens. Though twenty years have elapsed since his death, his name and memory are as familiar and fresh as but of yesterday. Now that the mellow hue of time and distance have cast their shadow over and around his cotemporaries it will not be too much to claim that one such man would give a lasting reputation to any community so fortunate as to have se-

cured his life work and noble services. Not only in the practice of medicine and surgery, was he distinguished, but in all the social relations of life, in the great moral reforms, of temperance and anti-slavery, in his advocacy of all local and public institutions, that were humane and elevating in their character, was he equally known and celebrated. Particularly as an enlightened patron of schools and education generally, and an active participant in all the grand system of internal improvement, both local and general—in which Greene county was interested—he was ever a marked man, yielding to no one in his zeal, activity and controlling influence.

Among his personal friends and associates in the healing art in Greene county, are a numerous band whose names will go down to posterity as his worthy co-laborers, and for their personal worth and devotion to medical science, will ever be held in lively remembrance while fidelity, virtue and goodness are the esteemed characteristics of notable men. In the honorable list will be found Dr. Wynans, the Dawsons and Spahr of Jamestown, Bell and Grimes of Bellbrook, Wilson and Thorns of Clifton and Yellow Springs, Greenes and McIlhenny of Fairfield, Hoover of Osborn, Stewart and Winters of

Cedarville, Samuel Martin, Stipp, Towler, Cummins, Perkins, Johnston, Coburn, Harbison, Kyle, McClellan, McClung, Edwards, and others still, a noble phalanx, protecting community from the insidious and malignant attacks of epidemic and other multifarious diseases. And akin to and as a branch of medical science, dentistry, can boast of having among her practitioners in Xenia as illustrious names in her Taft, Paine, and Watt as can be found belonging to that special class, in any ordinary sized metropolis in the country. Their reputation is not confined to Greene county alone, but in the literature, magazines and scientific works, published both in Europe and America, their articles are re-produced and commented upon for their intrinsic merit and valuable suggestions. Of a later date A. L. Decamp is contending for an equally honorable position in the same professional career.

While incidental allusion has been made to the many works of internal improvement in the county, there is yet one grand feature—the spirit, the soul of all these enterprises, to be specially noticed. It has been quaintly and tersely said, that the greatest thing England ever did "was Cromwell," implying in one word the nobleness and majesty of that

great reformer and all the results of his life work. So it may be said of Greene county, that for which she will always be known and celebrated, will be her early enthusiasm, wise and successful efforts to construct an iron road from the Ohio river at Cincinnati, to Sandusky City on Lake Erie, forty years and more ago. This was the Little Miami, Mad River & Lake Erie lines, the first grand railroad projection west of the Alleghenies, the promoter and fore-runner of the indefinite thousands of miles of other tracks since built between us and the Pacific Ocean. By her activity, zeal and prudent forecast, while other surrounding communities more prosperous and wealthy, and with greater natural advantages slumbered and slept, the ever watchful and sagacious citizens of old Greene won the prize and secured the honor forever entitled to both, of having had located within her own limits the earliest and grandest enterprise in all the west. As representative men in this great work the names of Martin, Galloway, Hivling, Drake and Mills will be perpetuated in the archives of the county as themselves not only the efficient instruments, but the exponents of the enlightened sentiments of her then Commissioners, Fudge, Gowdy and Bates, and after-

wards of Steele, Bennett and Daniel Lewis, besides others, equally intelligent and interested citizens too numerous to mention. As in mathematics the larger contains the lesser number, so in all minor improvements of highways, turnpikes and bridges, no want has been unsupplied, but all over the county living evidences of progress and thrift loom up as witnesses of the taste and appreciation of our entire people, in these works of local convenience and modern civilization. And though familliar now may be the names of the officers connected with Greene county, it will be an honor to have been associated in that relationship, in all after years, and the seeming liberty will be pardoned, as posterity is interested in the present, if it is recorded that Moses Barlow is Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, John Orr Clerk of said Court, A. S. Frazer, Auditor, Col. Stevenson, Treasurer, Hugh McQuiston, Recorder, J. H. Kyle, Sheriff, J. W. Harper, Probate Judge, Harvey Steele, James Stevenson and Wm. Watt, Commissioners.

In this general sketch and summary of facts, incidents and illustrations pertaining to the origin and development of Greene county, how wonderful, how magic-like the change! From an unbroken wilderness and

the chaotic elements of savage life, all within the memory and experience of persons present, we now behold spread out before us in oriental loveliness, more than a garden of Eden, a whole county with a happy and prosperous population of cultured men and women, dotting the entire surface with their homes of comfort and elegance, representing the most advanced ideas of social and domestic life, of civil and religious liberty and the advocates of all healthful, moral reforms known to mankind down to this 19th century. Modern civilization and christianity nowhere reflect a brighter light nor shine upon a fairer and purer realm. What more can I say? What more can you anticipate? Results—grand, sublime, unsurpassed in the annals of our country, crown the heads of our pioneer fathers and their descendants, for their noble deeds and early achievements in this picturesque and beautiful region of rolling uplands and smiling valleys, of gurgling founts and crystal streams, of murmuring waterfalls and romantic glens, producing in combination all the scenic charms of the far-famed Thessalian Temple of Greece, and the bolder features of the Highlands of old Scotland. And when the rolling cycle of another centennial anniversary shal]

be celebrated by our posterity, and we, the joyful participators in this, shall have passed on and attained to loftier conceptions and nobler employments in the ever-ascending scale of our immortal destiny, may we not hope that our children's children will still be occupying this, their inherited patrimony, building up and sustaining every known valuable interest belonging to human welfare, and inspired by the sainted memory of their illustrious ancestry be proud to maintain, and if possible to surpass, the present grand, glorious record of our own historical and beloved Greene county.

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